

SCORTP

Partners



US Forest Service

Vision:

The Forest Service will provide quality recreation opportunities within the sustainable capabilities of national forest ecosystems. We will emphasize natural settings and address the diverse interests of all Americans, the owners of this land.

Mission:

The phrase, “CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE,” captures the Forest Service mission. As set forth in law, the mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. It includes:

- Advocating a conservation ethic in promoting the health, productivity, diversity, and beauty of forests and associated lands.
- Listening to people and responding to their diverse needs in making decisions.

In 1998, Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck unveiled the agency’s Natural Resource Agenda for the 21st Century. The agenda’s four emphasis areas are watershed restoration and maintenance, sustainable forest ecosystem management, forest roads, and recreation.

The Forest Service will concentrate on five key recreation goals:

- Improve the settings for outdoor recreation through sound stewardship of forest resources and compatible recreational activities.
- Improve visitor satisfaction with our facilities and services.
- Improve educational opportunities for the public about the values of conservation, land stewardship, and responsible recreation.
- Strengthen our relationships with public and private entities, including volunteer-based and nonprofit organizations to optimize public service and improve outdoor recreation for all Americans.
- Establish professionally managed partnerships and intergovernmental cooperative efforts.

Roles and Responsibilities as Related to Outdoor Recreation

Congress established the Forest Service in 1905 to provide quality water and timber for the Nation’s benefit. Over the years, the public has expanded the list of what products and services are desired from national forests and grasslands. Congress responded by directing the Forest Service to manage national forests for additional multiple uses and benefits and for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as water, forage, wildlife, wood, and

recreation. “Multiple use” means managing resources under the best combination of uses to benefit the American people while ensuring the productivity of the land and protecting the quality of the environment.

In terms of recreation, the primary goal of the Forest Service is to protect and restore the settings for outdoor recreation experiences that millions of Americans have come to expect and enjoy. In this role, the Forest Service is responsible for the following:

- Providing high-quality recreation opportunities by providing customers with a suitable setting for recreation and maintaining the desired ecosystem condition.
- Increasing customer service satisfaction and education of Americans about their public lands.
- Protecting the long-term productivity and integrity of the landscape.
- Providing clean water and productive fish habitat to accommodate recreational activities such as fishing and boating.
- Striving to ensure the safety and security of forest visitors by focusing on reducing criminal activity and preventing problems from natural hazards, such as avalanches.
- Striving to maintain trails, developed sites, and undeveloped areas to established standards that will better enable us to meet our customers’ expectations. Appropriations are not likely to be sufficient to meet these standards, therefore, priority is given to meeting health, sanitation, and accessibility standards.
- Working closely with partners to provide recreational information and services to the public. Through natural resource interpretation and conservation education, customers may learn how to enhance their experiences with minimum impact on the land.
- Maintaining cooperative projects such as the National Recreation Reservation Service so that people are able to obtain information and make reservations through comprehensive channels.
- Expanding our cooperative efforts in technology through our Technology and Development Centers.
- Utilizing existing tools, such as public/private ventures and the Recreation Fee Program to extend recreation program resources and capabilities.
- Collaborating with communities, the private sector, and other agencies to build recreational programs, facilities, and services that contribute to local economies and quality of life.
- Maintaining a number of recreation databases which provide sources of information regarding trails, developed sites, recreation improvements, and undeveloped areas.
- Through interpretive exhibits and signs, providing a window through which Americans can experience their heritage and learn about the land.
- Managing resources through nationally designated systems such as the National Wild and Scenic River System, the National Wilderness Preservation System, and Scenic Byways.



The Forest Service manages ten National Forests in Idaho. This includes: the Boise, Clearwater, Salmon-Challis, Sawtooth, Caribou-Targhee, Nez Perce, Idaho Panhandle, Payette, and portions of the Bitterroot and Wallowa-Whitman.

There are two National Recreation Areas (NRA) in Idaho: The Sawtooth NRA which is managed by the Sawtooth National Forest and a portion of the Hells Canyon NRA, which is managed by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. An NRA is designated by Congress for its outstanding plant and animal communities, geological features, scenic grandeur, or other special features. These areas are managed to emphasize their recreational values.

There are five Congressionally designated wildernesses in Idaho's national forests: The Frank Church River of No Return, Gospel Hump, Hells Canyon, Sawtooth, and Selway-Bitterroot. Most of these are managed by several different national forests. A wilderness is a large area where natural ecosystem processes operate freely and where primeval character and influence are retained. Humans are merely visitors and their presence is hardly noticeable. Wilderness areas provide outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

There are seven wild and scenic rivers in Idaho, including portions of the Clearwater, Rapid, Snake, Middle Fork Salmon, Lochsa, and the Selway rivers.

There are 320 miles of Scenic Byways in Idaho National Forests. These roads offer glimpses of the most scenic, historic, and culturally significant resources. Driving for pleasure is one of the most popular forms of recreation in the national forests.

The Forest Service is responsible for maintaining and constructing trails and developed facilities. Much assistance with this effort is received from volunteers and IDPR grant programs.

Customer Profile

Although there is a great deal of tourists from other states and countries who recreate on national forests, Idaho residents are the most common visitors. Annually, Idaho's national forests receive 8-10 million visits. Rapid growth in Idaho's cities and increased tourism continues to result in increasing recreation use of the national forests in Idaho. Recent demographic and technological changes are also changing the characteristics of the typical national forest recreationist and recreation use patterns:

- More "urban" recreationists who live in cities and towns.
- Changing ethnicities with increasing Hispanic and Asian populations.
- An aging recreation population.
- More technology-driven activities such as geocaching.
- New, more powerful motorized transportation stretching access capabilities.

Summer activities include camping (in either developed or dispersed sites), fishing, and boating. Trail uses include hiking and horseback,

motorcycle, ATV, and mountain bike riding. River floating on Idaho's rivers accessed by national forests provides "world class" rafting, kayaking, and canoeing experiences. In addition to cutting firewood, forest visitors collect other forest products, such as berries and mushrooms.

In the spring and fall months, big game hunters visit the national forests to stalk deer, elk, moose, black bear and mountain goats. Bird hunters chase grouse and wild turkey.

In the winter time, forest roads become snowmobile or cross country ski trails with the help of partners who do the grooming. A number of ski resorts and lodges are operated under special use permit which offer excellent skiing opportunities.

Year-round visitors view natural scenery and wildlife or just enjoy getting away from cities and towns to relax in national forest settings. Numerous cabins and fire lookout buildings are rented to the general public for recreation use.

Other activities operated under special use permits include: recreation residences, outfitter/guide services, resorts, and organization camps.

Resources

Outdoor Recreation Resource	Number	Miles
Campgrounds	11	
Boating sites	61	
Picnic sites	62	
Interpretive Sites	42	
Trailheads	239	
Recreation residences	634	
Rental cabins	53	
Resorts/Ski areas	29	
Organization Camps	33	
Forest roads		30,000+
Summer Trails		17,300
Snow Trails		4,500
Scenic Byways		340
Acres of designated Wilderness managed	3,961,637	
Total Acres Managed	20,463,100	



National Forests in Idaho's recreation spectrum

by Terry Fletcher and Jim Kellar

With the thought that:

"The importance of recreational use as a social force and influence must be recognized and its requirements met. Its potentialities as a service to the American people, as the basis for industry and commerce, as the foundation of the future economic life of many communities, are definite and beyond question."

ROBERT Y. STUART, Forest Service Chief,

1928-33 ...

... the Forest Service will strive to meet the Nation's present and future needs for outdoor recreation in a manner that protects the health, diversity, and productivity of the land.

The USDA Forest Service has significant responsibilities for stewardship of the Nation's forest and grassland resources. People are asking for an ever-broader spectrum of benefits and services to enrich their outdoor experiences. Now and in the coming years, our challenge will be to concentrate on five key areas:

- v' Improve the **settings** for outdoor recreation.
- w' Improve **visitor satisfaction** with our facilities and services.
- x' Improve **educational opportunities** for the public about the values of conservation, land stewardship, and responsible recreation.
- y' Strengthen our **relationships** with private entities and volunteer-based and nonprofit organizations.
- z' Establish **professionally managed partnerships** and intergovernmental cooperative efforts.

Americans cherish the national forests and grasslands for the values they provide—clean water, clean air, natural scenic beauty, spiritual renewal, important natural resources, protection of rare species, majestic forests, wilderness, a connection with their history, and opportunities for unparalleled outdoor adventure. Recreation visitors want a great deal from their national forests in terms of settings, experiences, facilities, and services; and they will expect even more in the future. Recreation is the fastest growing use on the national forests and grasslands.

The national forests and grasslands offer a diversity of opportunities. We manage 63 percent of the wilderness system in the lower 48 States, and a much larger percentage of backcountry experiences. The American people have 4,268 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers; 399 wilderness areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System; 133,087 miles of hiking, horse,

and off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails, including portions of 6 national scenic trails and 11 national historic trails; extensive hunting and fishing opportunities; 383,000 miles of authorized roads; more than 277,000 heritage sites; over 4,300 campgrounds; and 31 national recreation areas, scenic areas, and monuments. Their active enjoyment of these lands contributes a significant amount to the gross domestic product, with the largest share associated with outdoor recreation.

In Idaho:

- National Forest System Lands, some **20,463,100 acres**, make up about **39%** of Idaho. This is the highest proportion of any state in the country.
 - Federal lands as a whole make up about 65% of Idaho. This is the 4th highest in the country.
 - Idaho National Forest visits are about **8.4** million per year.
 - At least **24%** of the visitors to Idaho National Forests are from outside the State of Idaho.
 - A little over **1,000** developed recreation sites are located on National Forest System lands within Idaho. Of these, about 940 are owned by the Forest Service and about **70** are owned by special use authorization holders.
 - Developed recreation sites on National Forests within Idaho include about:
 - o **418** campgrounds
 - o **42** interpretive sites
 - o **61** boating access sites
 - o **62** picnic sites
 - o **239** trailheads
 - Developed recreation sites operated under special use authorizations on National Forests within Idaho include about:
 - o **33** organization camps
 - o **16** resorts
 - o **13** ski areas
 - National Forests within Idaho provide around **17,300** miles of summer trails and more than **4,500** miles of winter trails for recreation use.
 - The Forest Service manages 3,961,637 acres of Congressionally designated Wilderness in Idaho; approximately 7.5% of the State's total 52,960,600 acreage.
- National forests offer unique nature-based, recreation opportunities, including undeveloped natural settings, as well as constructed facilities, which reinforce the natural character and complement the enjoyment of these special places. Resource-based travel and tourism provide a window through which an increasingly urban society can enjoy and appreciate the natural world. We encourage travel and tourism opportunities in collaboration with tourism professionals and Idaho Department of Commerce and Labor, Division of Tourism offices that represent the diversity of existing and potential visitors.



The Forest Service is committed to provide the best possible stewardship, benefiting current and future generations of American people. The realities of diverse interests, finite budgets, and environmental considerations will each influence the choices to be made in the management of forest and grassland resources. Delivering on this commitment requires understanding of the public's interests through direct discussions and collaboration; financial support through Congressional appropriations, volunteers, partners, and user fees; development and use of scientific information; and broad support for the agency's long-term goals and objectives.

Key Opportunities

Settings

Maintaining the integrity of the landscape setting is essential to ecosystem viability and the recreation experience. Enjoyment of scenery is central to quality recreation experiences and travel/tourism opportunities. Quality natural settings and well designed and maintained structures and signing must work in harmony to enhance and protect these settings.

Protect and Restore Natural Character

Through effective recreation and ecological planning, cultural resource protection, scenery management, and social research, we continually identify attributes of the natural, social, and built environments essential for ecological sustainability and recreation opportunity. Attention to the full spectrum of recreational opportunities and constructed features will reinforce our special natural character and wild image.

Invest in Some Facilities and Remove Others

In Idaho, as in all other parts of the country, the National Forests have millions of dollars of needed repairs of existing facilities. We must prioritize facilities to be upgraded to meet health, sanitation, and accessibility standards. At the same time we must be prepared to remove buildings and infrastructure that no longer meet our needs, are not in tune with the natural setting, present significant health and safety problems, or are too expensive to maintain. To protect and assure the proper care of natural settings, we will need to strengthen some heavily used and fragile sites to protect their condition while meeting user expectations. New construction should be limited and will need to focus only on resolving resource impacts, meeting identified demand, and helping to diversify local economies.

Showcase Nationally Designated Areas

We have the stewardship responsibility for outstanding nationally designated areas – the Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Frank Church, River of No Return Wilderness, Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, Lewis and Clark and Nez Perce National Historic Trails, are notable examples - whose facilities and services are languishing. We will continue to emphasize

national recreation and scenic areas and national monuments, national scenic byways, national trails, and historic sites as showcases for quality recreation and as laboratories for new initiatives. We will capitalize on unique offerings of each special designation. We will examine innovative funding criteria for these areas.

Provide Access to Recreation Opportunities

With the rapid development of areas that surround national forests, many critical public access points are in jeopardy. It is important to work with local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners to plan together for the future of public rights-of-way. With changes in use patterns on the forest transportation system, it is important that we work together to plan for future uses. Equal opportunity and universal design for all people, including people with disabilities, continue to be priorities and will become increasingly important as the baby boomer population ages.



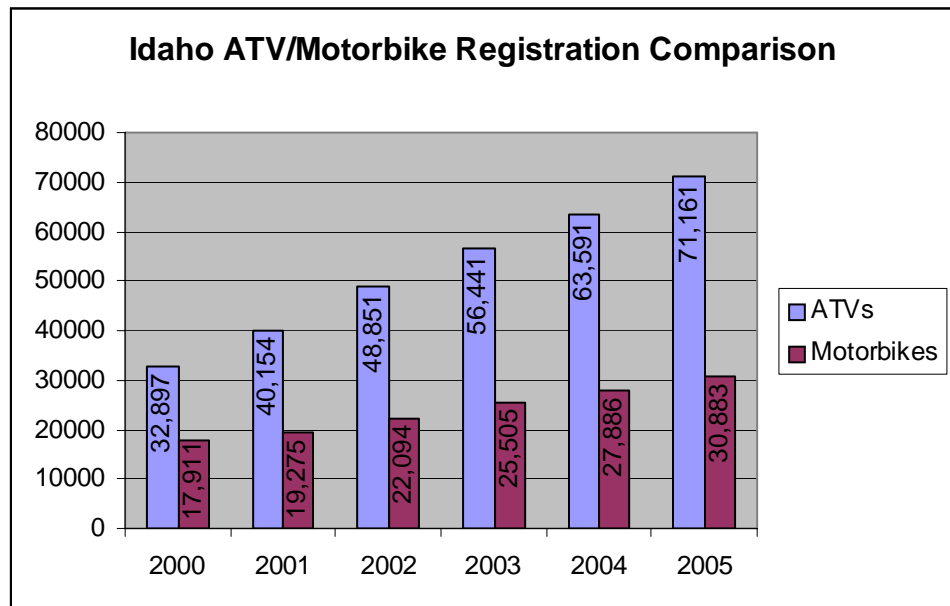
The increase in motorized recreation, particularly ATVs, is a major challenge for the Forest



Manage OHV Use

Off-highway-vehicle use is a legitimate use of national forest lands, and we are working with the OHV community to assure high-quality motorized opportunities and quality experiences while maintaining acceptable and balanced environmental impacts on trails. In Idaho, the Forest Service works in partnership with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and many local organizations to develop and maintain hundreds of miles of trails for OHV use. We also recognize that certain settings are inappropriate for OHV use due to administrative or congressional designation, impacts on ecological resources, or effects on other recreationists. We will move toward designated use areas and travel ways on a site-by-site basis through the forest planning system, establishing a monitoring process that will closely track use over time. We work closely with the OHV community, including the Idaho Interagency OHV Coordinating Committee, Tread Lightly! and Leave No Trace, to develop educational materials and good-user ethic guides that assure acceptable levels of impact in natural settings. We will continue to work with our National Forest users to assist with the management of trails and use areas, and in the monitoring of use on environmental quality.

Over the past few decades, the availability and capability of OHVs has increased tremendously. In 1995, ATV registrations in the State of Idaho numbered only 11,327. By 2005, they had increased to 71,161. In just the past six years (2000-2005) ATV registrations were up 116% and motorbike registrations were up 72% (see chart below).



More Americans are enjoying access and recreational opportunities on their national forests and grasslands, in keeping with the Forest Service's multiple use mandate. However, the increase in OHV use also affects soil, water, wildlife habitat, and other recreational visitors. Today unmanaged recreation, including impacts from off-highway vehicles, represents one of four key threats facing the nation's forests and grasslands.

Promote Connections for Community Sustainability

Together with local recreation users and businesses, we will continue to support community objectives for building recreational programs, facilities, and services that contribute to local and regional economies and quality of life. The economic health of communities relies increasingly on the tourism industry, especially in gateway communities. The Forest Service will join commercial ventures, nongovernmental organizations, trade associations, State organizations, and educational institutions in forming viable and sustainable nature-based tourism industries. When connected to a national forest setting, the Forest Service has a stewardship role in evaluating tourism offerings to ensure they are in the public's best interest and meet ecological constraints and high environmental standards. The agency will provide programs like Passport In Time and Heritage Expeditions.

Urban National Forest Users

Forests close to urban populations are increasingly important because they contribute to the quality of life of millions of people. Emerging issues such as limits to growth, carrying capacity, competing uses, and multicultural diversity have occurred on these forests first. People living in urban areas are placing greater demands on the Forest Service for a wider range of travel and tourism services, educational opportunities, and recreational experiences. The agency has an opportunity to become a leader in promoting good land stewardship in communities through the Urban and Community Forestry program. They can serve as learning centers or "Windows to the Future" for other forests facing urbanization issues.

Cooperation, Collaboration, and Partnerships

Many of our long-standing relationships with Federal, Tribal, State, and local public agency representatives will need to be even closer to maximize efficiencies and plan for mutually beneficial recreation activities. Because fires, diseases, insects, and even recreationists know no boundaries, the Forest Service must employ a large network of local, regional, Tribal, State, and multi-State partners. Working in partnership, these groups can address education, communications, tourism, and stewardship issues that impact or are impacted by recreation. With declining recreation budgets, continuing to support existing and establishing new professionally managed partnerships and intergovernmental cooperative efforts are an increasingly important means to accomplish the recreation job. Tribal relationships need to be strong on a government-to-government basis to achieve mutual goals. New skills, a spirit of cooperation, shared expectations, accountability, and new legal authorities may be needed to reach long-term resource management and financially sustaining programs.

Terry Fletcher, (now retired) was a Forest Landscape Architect on the Sawtooth National Forest. Jim Keller is the Recreation Program Manager on the Boise National Forest. Much of the material in their article came from The Forest Service National Recreation Agenda.



Bureau of Land Management

Vision:

Our overall vision is to renew people's relationships with the land while respecting local cultures, enjoying quality recreation experiences, and enhancing their quality of life. BLM aspires to be recognized as:

§ A steward committed to safeguarding the ecological sustainability and providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities commensurate with the capability of the resource base in accommodating public needs.

§ An innovator ensuring that present and future generations continue to enjoy recreational, economic, social, cultural, and aesthetic benefits from public lands.

§ A leader in providing quality wildland recreation opportunities that encourages freedom to pursue unstructured recreation opportunities with the responsibility to use public lands wisely and to respect other visitors and local residents.

§ An open partner in working with other providers to meet outdoor recreation needs across a much broader spectrum than is found within the role of BLM recreation management.

Mission:

Sustain healthy land and water resources while providing quality outdoor recreation services and opportunities.

Sharing the responsibility for stewardship of public lands and waterways with our partners and visitors.

Caring for all aspects of healthy ecosystems including our customers and quality of life in our communities.

Roles and Responsibilities as Related to Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

BLM will:

- Strive to meet the social and economic needs of present and future generations. Among other things, healthy ecosystems provide settings where present and future visitors have opportunities for high quality recreation experiences; local communities retain their cultural and economic health and integrity, and natural systems remain functional and healthy.

- Emphasize resource-dependent recreation opportunities that typify the vast western landscapes. Although we manage a wide range of activities

and settings, BLM lands are noted for the undeveloped, wild nature of recreation opportunities. We must customize the management of each local area according to its own unique attributes. Most recreation-related development will be for protecting resource values and to serve as staging areas for resource-based uses.

- Stress partnership and low investment resource-dependent opportunities, such as back country byways, watchable wildlife, multiple use trails, and waterways. We will concentrate on providing quality recreation opportunities in cooperation with other providers.
- Place continued emphasis on providing quality recreation opportunities that include attaining universal accessibility in recreation sites, facilities, and programs.

Customer Profile:

The majority of visitors to Idaho BLM public lands are residents of Idaho; however, a large number of recreationists also come from neighboring states. Recreation visits in 2004 totaled 5,793,645. River rowing/floating/rafting, camping, hunting, fishing, viewing or learning about the environment, and driving for pleasure are the most popular activities engaged in by recreationists on BLM lands. Idaho BLM also administers over 100 active commercial and competitive special recreation permits, including such activities as outfitted river rafting, hunting, and fishing; mountain bike and motorcycle racing events, horse endurance races, and dog trails. There are also an additional 550 permits issued for special area, individual, vendor, or organized group use.



People, Places, and Partners

BLM Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services

By Kay Schiepan

Vast and varied, Bureau of Land Management public lands represent the largest acreage available for recreation in America, offering unparalleled leisure opportunities. Recreation has become one of the BLM's premier programs and is vital to the local economy in many communities in Idaho. As recreation and tourism take their place alongside more traditional land uses in the culture and economy of these communities, the BLM's responsibility to these places and the people who live there is also growing.

The demographics of the **PEOPLE** that the BLM serves are changing. The ways in which people use their public **PLACES**, the activities in which they participate, and the benefits they derive, are changing as a result of evolving values and interests and advances in technology. Shifting **ECONOMICS** strongly influence the sustainable nature of communities and small business that are often dependent on outdoor settings and activities managed by the BLM. These dynamics result in multiple challenges that ultimately compound the BLM's ability to effectively respond to these changes.

The BLM shares extraordinary landscape stories with the American public. Although the BLM manages for many different uses, the vast majority of the public's interaction with the BLM and their public lands is through recreation pursuits. They come to raft the rivers, hike the trails, and ride the back roads and trails. They fish, they hunt, they hike, they ride, they float, and they camp. They visit heritage sites, National Monuments, Wilderness, National Trails and National Conservation Areas. The BLM public lands are often seen as the last tangible vestige of the Old West and the vast open spaces that forged the American character.

BLM's Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services for these great western lands; for the open spaces, heritage, wildlife, and adventures treasured by an ever-increasing number of visitors focus on three primary goals:

- GOAL 1 - Improve Access to Appropriate Recreation Opportunities on BLM Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters.
- GOAL 2 - Ensure a Quality Experience and Enjoyment of Natural and Cultural Resources on BLM Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters.
- GOAL 3 - Provide for and Receive Fair Value in Recreation.

Idaho BLM serves the state, by acting as its public land steward for nearly 12 million acres or 23% of Idaho. The size of this uniquely American

public estate combined with the diversity of the BLM outdoor recreation/tourism settings attracts over five million visitors within and to Idaho. BLM manages these settings, which range from primitive to urban landscapes; each meets a specific set of visitor preferences that can be quantified and measured. Shifts in visitor preferences from primitive to motorized, or from motorized to urban settings, can be mapped and measured and thus correlated with other federal, state and private suppliers. Correlating existing outdoor recreation/tourism settings with visitor preferences and demand, allows the BLM to provide the best value for the American public by more seamlessly engaging with other partners.

The BLM public lands visitors are drawn to what has been characterized as “the remnants of the American Frontier” (National Geographic, 8/01); each visitor seeks the outdoor recreation/tourism mix that inspires their visit and makes it unforgettable. The population of Idaho comprising part of this “remnant of the American Frontier” has grown nearly 50 percent during the last 25 years, with the largest growth centered within urban areas. By the time a contemporary 16-year-old girl reaches the age of 50, the population of the United States will have doubled. Approximately 50 percent of her peers will reach the age of 100, or greater (FERMATA, Inc.). These extraordinary population demographics and their reciprocal dramatic increase in visitor numbers will also produce many new types of visitors, each generating many new variations of future outdoor recreation demand.

The mixture of BLM-managed resources interwoven with small-town communities is reminiscent of the Old West, and often characterizes the BLM public lands. Most notably, this is what seems to transport people back to a simpler time and place where, escaping the confines of city life, they can reconnect with the rural countryside and perhaps even their own rural roots. This applies to visitors, as well as to those who, increasingly, have chosen to live in proximity to public lands. The profound nature of this natural resource-community interface applies whether people come just to relax and restore, or to stimulate and recharge themselves. The BLM public lands and local communities are inseparable, and both enrich the human spirit and improve one's quality of life in countless ways.

Gateway Communities and Heritage: Recreation and tourism are big business and significant economic drivers and are identified as one of the top industries in Idaho. Outdoor recreation, nature, adventure and heritage tourism are the fastest growing segments of the travel and tourism industry, and the BLM open spaces have it all. Investment in the BLM Recreation Program and National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) will help support sustainable economic growth, assist with diversifying and stabilizing local communities, sustain domestic tourism, provide valuable community amenities, attract businesses, protect sensitive resources, and improve the quality of life for both visitors and residents. Outfitting, guiding and the tourism industry depend on access to and availability of the BLM public lands. These and other numerous opportunities exist to encourage providing for and receiving fair value in recreation interests.



Accessibility and Monitoring: The social and economic context within which the BLM public lands are managed has changed dramatically over the last several decades...with visitor use in Idaho increasing more than 50% in the last decade. Once isolated, BLM public lands now literally comprise the backyard for thousands of Idahoans; many of whom are newly arrived in the state.

Lands historically managed for resource commodities must now meet additional

demands for open space, recreation opportunities, habitat, celebration of heritage, and watershed...examples of shifting priorities in a rapidly changing social landscape. These conditions demand the creation of a comprehensive travel planning and management approach that examines both legal and physical public access, as well as the need for monitoring and adjusting as access needs change.

Visitor Service: Over 5 million visitors enjoy Idaho BLM destinations and outdoor contribute a significant amount to the Idaho economy. This growing influence is fundamentally changing the role for public lands in the western United States. Over 95 percent of Americans participate in some form of outdoor recreation on an annual basis. Outdoor recreation and leisure activities are a major part of the lifestyle of millions of Americans and international visitors and a major supporting component of the quality of life, health, and economic vitality for thousands of western communities. The BLM public lands play a lead role in providing these outdoor recreation benefits. Stakeholders and constituents want the BLM to invest in the future by:

- Providing interpretation, environmental education and information services
- Engaging communities in the development and implementation of recreation and visitor services
- Building, supporting and sustaining partnerships and leveraging resources
- Defining, researching and documenting social and economic benefits
- Conserving, collaborating and cooperating; all in the service of conservation

Quality of Life and Urban Interface: Overall, population growth, along with the popularity of an expanding variety of outdoor recreation activities and benefits is creating an unprecedented demand for outdoor recreation opportunities, areas, facilities and services. It is increasingly clear that work, to many people, is no longer the end goal in life, rather it is the means to an end. Lifestyle, it would seem, is very important to people living and working in western landscape settings. For many, this privilege of proximity to the BLM public lands is the reason for living and working where they do. A primary concern associated with this tremendous growth is potential degradation of natural and cultural resources. On the heels of declining resources inevitably comes degradation of the visitor experience due to congestion and user conflicts, as well as decline in economic sustainability and overall quality of life.

Partnership and Stewardship: Recreation is the face of the BLM. Over 80 percent of public contacts and transactions are conducted through the Recreation Program. Nearly one half of all the BLM volunteer hours are

recreation-related. About two thirds of the BLM's partnerships reside in the Recreation Program with nearly 100 partnerships in Idaho. The Recreation Program is a leader in generating and leveraging more grants, alternative funding and in-kind support. In fact, for every dollar that the Congress of the United States invests in the BLM's Recreation Program, an \$8 equivalent of value is returned to the American public, in both services and opportunities. The Recreation Program is responsible for hundreds of special and outreach events, annually. Recreation interests have the highest percent of contact with the voting public and the strongest history of partnering as a fundamental management strategy. This experience, this history is fundamental to a future committed to successful partnership benefits and outcomes.

Health and Safety: We live in a time of great stress, and an accelerated pace which results in an anxious sense of time poverty. This phenomenon substantially increases the need for places of contemplation, rest, and renewal. In addition, increased concern regarding effective ways to improve the American population's overall physical health are prevalent, and the BLM public lands are expected to become part of the solution. Together, communities and the BLM can work with schools, health officials, hospitals, insurance companies and non-governmental organizations (NGO's) to find effective resolutions to contemporary health/wellness issues. The BLM now manages almost eight times as many recreation sites as it did 25 years ago, greatly increasing costs for maintaining healthy and safe operations. While attempting to accommodate increases in recreation use, the BLM has consequently incurred the resulting costs for the maintenance and operations of a significant number of special areas and facilities.

Interpretation and Environmental Education: Many find their way to nature, but don't know where they are or when they arrived, what they are seeing or even how to care for what they see and love. The role of outdoor ethic programs, such as Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! is critical to visitor benefits and visitors' ability to learn how to create a sustainable experience. In survey after survey, environmental education is repeatedly named as a primary expectation for a rewarding visitor experience. Numerous demographic and trend data verify this need. Interpretation is a communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the inherent meanings in the resource, rendering it critical to long-term land ethic development and retention and meaningful visitor experiences.

BLM's recreation program engages **PEOPLE**, enhances **PLACES**, encourages **PARTNERSHIPS** and elevates the idea of **PUBLIC SERVICE**. It is important to note that BLM is making a distinct shift in recreation management from a traditional activity-based approach to managing for specific individual, social and economic benefits. Our blueprint for the future will define and perhaps present the most salient legacy that future generations can receive...a public land legacy acknowledging the simple enjoyment of being alive and being in the outdoors.

Kay Schiepan is the state recreation planner for the Bureau of Land Management.

IDAHO



Bureau of Reclamation

Vision:

Through leadership, use of technical expertise, efficient operations, responsive customer service and the creativity of people, the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will seek to protect local economies and preserve natural resources and ecosystems through the effective use of water.

Mission:

To manage, develop and protect water and related resources in an environmentally sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Roles and Responsibilities as Related to Outdoor Recreation

Reclamation was created to help sustain the economy and improve the quality of life in the 17 western states by providing reliable supplies of water and energy. Since 1902, Reclamation has been developing an infrastructure of dams, hydroelectric power plants and water conveyance facilities to help accomplish this task. This infrastructure also provides flood protection, fish and wildlife habitat, river regulation, water quality protection and improvement and recreation.

More than 300 recreation areas have been created by Reclamation projects in the 17 Western States. Idaho's share is 22 areas and of that number only two areas are directly operated and managed by Reclamation (Black Canyon and Little Wood). Partnership agreements with city, county, state and other federal agencies provide for the operation and management of the remaining 20 areas. In addition to these developed recreation areas, Reclamation projects have created new recreation opportunities on the rivers downstream of the dams. Fishing, rafting and other activities are popular pastimes below reclamation dams, which have transformed some of the rivers into world-class trout fisheries.

Reclamation's responsibility is:

- To diversify the opportunities for safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences for all of its visitors.
- To make all recreation areas it manages and those of our partners accessible to all individuals.

- To work in partnership with the private sector and with the State and Local governments and other Federal agencies to enhance the visitor's experience in Idaho.
- It is our goal to improve our ability to provide high-quality recreation facilities and services to the public.
- To be recognized as a key Federal resource management agency, whose actions benefit on-site recreation consumers, as well as downstream recreation and natural resource interests.
- To obtain support from the public, the administration and the Congress as a major provider of recreation opportunities and an equal partner when competing with other Federal agencies for funds related to outdoor recreation and resource management.

Customer Profile:

Reclamation's customers are generally Idaho residents but we do get large numbers visiting from surrounding states, as well as frequent visitors from other countries and cross-country travelers. Increased population has sent many recreationists to our more remote locations to get away from the crowds at the popular recreation attractions. Like many other water based recreation sites, ours attract the crowds on weekends and holidays. Visiting our sites during the weekdays would offer more available sites and greater freedom to enjoy the water and associated facilities.

Reclamation based activities are generally water-related — boating, fishing, swimming and water-skiing — but many of our facilities also include camping, picnicking, hunting, bird watching, some trail related activities such as hiking, horseback riding and mountain biking. Some of our reservoirs also offer ice fishing during winter months.

Resources:

Outdoor Recreation Resource	Number
Campgrounds	11
Day-Use Areas	16
Visitor Centers	1
Boat Launch Sites	17
Wildlife Managed Areas	10
Historical Site	1
Total Acres	76,236



Total acres include all lands owned by Bureau of Reclamation, however the facility numbers do not reflect those sites operated and managed by Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and USFS.

Long Range Goals

- To provide quality recreational opportunities and facilities for public use on Reclamation project lands and waters.
- To obtain support from the public, the administration and Congress as a major provider of recreation opportunities and an equal partner when competing with other Federal agencies for funds related to outdoor recreation and resource management.
- To provide access for people with disabilities.

Challenges

- Existing legislation encourages development and management on Reclamation project lands with non-Federal managing partnerships, but limits Reclamation's authority to operate and maintain its recreation facilities to minimum, basic health and safety requirements at self-managed recreation facilities.
- Reclamation can expect to have more projects turned back from managing partners due to funding shortages. Turn backs are most often due to the high cost of maintaining ageing facilities.
- Reclamation is currently not included in the Fee Demo program and Reclamation has no authority to retain and re-use user fees, with few exceptions.
- Reclamation is not authorized to retain user fees collected at its self-managed recreation facilities for site specific recreation facility improvements,

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Boise, Idaho 83706
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Reclamation in Idaho's Outdoor Recreation Future

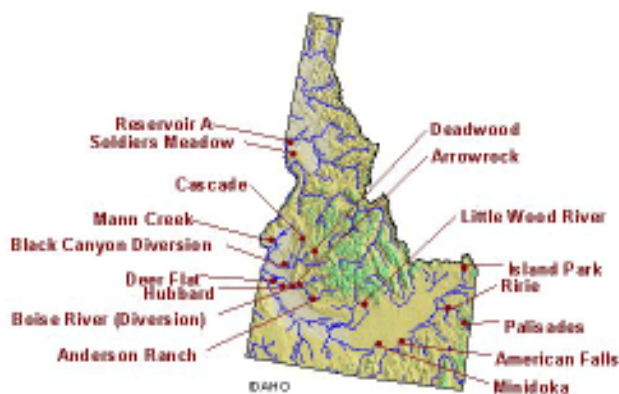
We built them and they came

It is no surprise that the Bureau of Reclamation water projects attract large numbers of recreation visitors each year in Idaho. Water is the number one draw for outdoor recreation and Reclamation is the nation's largest wholesale supplier of water, administering 348 reservoirs in 17 western states. There are 15 Reclamation reservoirs in Idaho with facilities including boat ramps, picnic areas, campgrounds, swimming beaches, and even a golf course.

However, authority is limited

Reclamation's mission is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public. Although Reclamation has been around since 1902, recreation was not recognized as an authorized project purpose at all projects until 1965.

Unlike other federal land management agencies, Reclamation does not have an "organic act" or broad blanket authority to take actions such as providing recreation opportunities to the public. Instead Reclamation authorities come from project-specific direction from Congress and vary from project to project. Reclamation is required to transfer management for recreation to other Federal, State, and local public entities by agreements, whenever possible.



Reclamation Reservoirs in Idaho



The Early Days

At the turn of the century, Reclamation took over the construction of private irrigation projects struggling to increase water supplies to arid farm lands. Minidoka Dam, completed in 1906, was the first Reclamation project in Idaho, backing up Lake Walcott near Rupert. There are now 15 reservoirs, 3 wildlife management areas, and other Reclamation lands in Idaho, all of which attract significant recreation use.

Managing Partners

Currently, most of Reclamation's managing partners are non-Federal, which allows Reclamation to cost share for recreation development, as well as some operation and maintenance. Federal and non-Federal managing partners have contributed approximately 85% of the costs to develop, operate, maintain, and replace recreation facilities on Reclamation lands. Managing partners often provide an on-site presence and added services like pest control, trespass resolution, fire suppression, fish and wildlife management, law enforcement, sanitation, site security, and public safety at no additional cost to Reclamation.

RECLAMATION IN IDAHO	
Reclamation Reservoir or Area	Managing Partner
American Falls	Bingham County & City of American Falls
Anderson Ranch	US Forest Service
Arrowrock	US Forest Service
Black Canyon	Reclamation
Boise River Diversion Dam	Reclamation
Cartier Slough Wildlife Management Area	Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Cascade	Idaho Dept. of Parks & Rec.
Deadwood	US Forest Service
Island Park	US Forest Service
Lake Lowell	US Fish & Wildlife Service
Lake Walcott	Idaho Dept. of Parks & Rec. US Fish & Wildlife Service
Little Wood River	Reclamation
Mann Creek	Reclamation
Montour Wildlife Management Area	Reclamation
Palisades	US Forest Service
Reservoir A (Mann Lake)	Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Ririe	Bonneville Co. Parks & Rec.
Soldier's Meadow	Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game
Teton River	Reclamation
Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area	Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game

Challenges for the Future

Demand. Water for recreation is in relatively static supply because large-scale Federal water development in the U.S. is essentially complete. Meanwhile, population growth in the West is resulting in ever greater demands for water for all purposes, including recreation. Reclamation accounts for 8 percent of the total visitation to Federal lands, while it manages only 1 percent of the Federal acreage.

Authorities. Reclamation also has limited authority to develop recreation areas. As directed by Congress, with a few exceptions, Reclamation is required to transfer management for recreation whenever possible to other Federal, State, and local public entities by agreements. Federal Law confines Reclamation to the construction of only “minimum facilities”, when there is no specific project authorization or a managing partner. Reclamation also has no authority to cost share with non-government entities (private or non-private).



Sportsman's Park at American Falls Reservoir - managed in partnership with Bingham County. Photo by USBR

Turnbacks. Facing increasing demands on limited budgets, states, counties, and cities are becoming more inclined to turn recreation management back to Reclamation. “Turnbacks” can happen overnight, and usually involve poorly maintained and managed facilities from agencies with escalating demands on shrinking budgets. Reclamation is not staffed or budgeted to manage these sites directly. Furthermore, when a turnback happens, Reclamation has the authority only to maintain and replace the existing facilities. No new facilities can be added without specific Congressional direction.

*Mann Creek Campground – A “turnback” to Reclamation.
Photo by USBR*





Not Public Lands. Unlike other Federal land management agencies, Reclamation lands are not considered “public lands”, but are identified as “project lands”. Reclamation’s primary interest is in protecting the project facilities such as dams and power plants, as well as the natural and cultural resources in the project area. Reclamation lands are closed to off-road vehicle use unless specifically opened. For security reasons, access around dams may be restricted at times, even if that includes access to the best fishing holes or a short-cut between communities.

Funding. Reclamation is not always being included in broad recreation-related legislation, as Reclamation’s budget comes from a different source than most of the land management agencies. Reclamation receives appropriated funds through the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee, while the majority of appropriated funds for land management functions for other Interior agencies are through the Interior and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Opportunities on the Horizon

Consistent with Mission. The valuable social and economic benefits that recreation provides can be integrated into Reclamation’s core mission to deliver water and generate power. Reclamation must carry out its other trust and stewardship responsibilities, one of which is to provide the public with safe and enjoyable outdoor recreation experiences. This is challenging as Reclamation seeks to balance recreation use with other, sometimes conflicting project purposes such as irrigation, flood control, fish and wildlife needs, and power production. Studies are validating that recreation and its associated economic and social benefits warrant consideration in operations planning.

Plan Implementation. Resource Management Plans have been completed for 5 Reclamation reservoirs in Idaho and another plan is in progress. With plans in place implementation can begin, and this often includes improvements for recreation and fish and wildlife.

Fee Collection. Recent legislation may improve Reclamation’s ability to manage for recreation. Recent passage of the Federal Lands and Recreation Enhancement Act may provide opportunities for Reclamation to retain user fees in some instances. These fees could then be used for direct improvements to the sites where they were collected. Implementation for Reclamation is still pending final approval.

Partnerships. Cost share grants were made possible by legislation in 1992 for planning, operating, and developing recreation facilities and fish and wildlife enhancements with non-federal managing partners. Reclamation has the authority to cost share 50/50 for recreation development and 75/25 for fish and wildlife enhancements with a qualifying partner.

With demand for recreation opportunities increasing, new partnerships may be possible with States, counties, and cities. Excellent facilities and services have been developed in areas where there is:

- High visitation
- Long seasonal use
- A financially stable partner

Identity. Surveys indicate that people are very familiar with opportunities available on public lands managed by the NPS, but unfamiliar with opportunities on Reclamation lands. New and on-going efforts at providing websites, brochures, and signage will improve Reclamation's visual identity and public awareness of opportunities.

What's Happening Now

Lake Cascade. Tamarack Resort, Idaho's newest all-season resort at Lake Cascade, officially opened in December of 2004. Tamarack will bring more visitors, residents, and recreational opportunities and demands to Lake Cascade in the near future. Additional planning may be necessary to keep up with this rapidly changing area.



*Lake Cascade State Park.
Photo by USBR*

Teton River. Reclamation is developing a resource management plan for the Teton River canyon, upstream from the dam site in eastern Idaho. The plan will provide a cohesive vision for land management issues for improved resource and recreation management on over 5,800 acres of land along 13-miles of the scenic Teton River.



*Teton River – Eastern Idaho.
Photo by USBR*



Access for All. Providing access for all Americans, including those with mobility, hearing, visual, or cognitive disabilities, to public use areas and places of employment under Reclamation's jurisdiction is a priority. Reclamation is working hard to correct identified deficiencies to make all of its recreation sites accessible by 2010.

Accessible Picnic Shelter at Black Canyon Park. Photo by USBR



Snake River. In 2003, Reclamation completed work with the University of Montana, Flathead Lake Biological Station that identified river operations needed to sustain healthy ecological conditions on a 71-river mile reach of the Snake River (South Fork) below Palisades Dam. As implemented in 2004, flows continue to meet contractual obligations for irrigation needs, using the system flexibility to mimic more natural river conditions. Ecological flows support the South Fork's outstanding scenery, recreation opportunities, and native Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

* * * * *

Reclamation has a major role in providing recreation opportunities for the people of Idaho and the nation. Reclamation's challenge for the future will be to find ways of providing multiple benefits from a limited water supply for a population with ever increasing demands.

National Park Service

The United States was the first nation to establish national parks: Yellowstone, Yosemite, Sequoia, Mount Rainier and Crater Lake were among the first. With parks like these as examples, the United States became a leader in the worldwide movement to set aside public park lands.

In 1916 Congress established the National Park Service (NPS) within the Department of the Interior. The dual mission of the Service, as identified by Congress at its inception, has remained valid as the System evolved. The Service is to manage the parks: “. . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein” and “. . . to provide for the enjoyment of the same, in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for future generations.”

Managing the National Park System

Nationwide, there are now 388 parks in the National Park System. Units of the National Park System in Idaho are City of Rocks National Reserve, Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, Minidoka Internment National Monument as well as most of the sites of Nez Perce National Historical Park and part of Yellowstone National Park.

On the front lines and behind the scenes in these parks, National Park Service employees strive to ensure each park visitor has a unique, enjoyable and educational experience.

Beyond the Boundaries

The National Park Service’s professional staff also reaches out beyond National Park System boundaries to improve park and recreation opportunities throughout the United States. In partnership with state and local government and private citizens, the Service is working to build better communities for people and nature.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Through the Land and Water Conservation Fund grants-in-aid program, the National Park Service channels federal funds to state and local governments for outdoor recreation and conservation projects. More than \$5.5 million in federal LWCF funds have been apportioned to Idaho since 2000 and have been used to fund such projects as Modie Park in Lewiston, Idaho and new campgrounds and camper cabins at Farragut State Park.

Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance

Through this technical assistance program, NPS works with state and local governments and private organizations on planning efforts to protect rivers, establish trails, and find other innovative ways to promote conservation and recreation. Recent projects include a greenway along



IDAHO



Paradise Creek in Moscow, Idaho, a recreational opportunity project along the middle Snake River, accommodating mountain bike use on trails at Shaeffer Butte near Boise, a trail and pathway system in Caldwell, and a greenway along Teton Creek.

Federal Surplus Real Property

The Service provides for the transfer of lands no longer needed by the federal government to states and communities for parks and recreation.

National Rivers

The Service maintains a National Rivers Inventory and studies outstanding rivers for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. National Trails

The Service works with federal, state and local governments to designate and protect components of the National Trails System. The Oregon, Nez Perce, California and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails are examples of long distance trails that pass through Idaho and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail follows the crest of the Rockies along Idaho's border with Montana. There are also many local National Recreation Trails in the National Trails System, including 43 in Idaho that provide more than 454 miles of trail. National Natural Landmarks

On public or private land, National Natural Landmarks illustrate the geologic and ecological character of the United States. The Service identifies and maintains a registry of these sites, including 11 in Idaho.

National Historic Landmarks

Similarly, the Service identifies National Historic Landmarks, the treasured reminders of our nation's history and culture. City of Rocks, Fort Hall and Weippe prairie are examples of National Historic Landmarks in Idaho.

National Register of Historic Places

Places of state and local significance, as well as those of national significance, are listed in the National Register, the official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

Among the National Register sites in Idaho are Granite Pass and the Caribou County Courthouse in Soda Springs.

Units In The National Park System

<u>Type of Designation</u>	<u>Total Designations</u>
National Battlefields	11
National Battlefield Parks	3
National Battlefield Site	1
National Military Parks	9
National Historical Parks	42
National Historic Sites	78
International Historic Sites	1
National Lakeshores	4
National Memorial	28
National Monuments	74
National Parks	58
National Parkways	4
National Preserves	18
National Reserves	2
National Recreation Areas	18
National Rivers	5
National Wild and Scenic Rivers & Riverways	10
National Scenic Trails	3
National Seashores	10
Other Designations	11
Total Units	390

National Park Service
Partnership Programs
909 First Ave
Seattle WA 98104-1060
(206) 220-4126



Idaho Department of Fish and Game

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game was established in essentially its present form in 1938 to preserve, protect, perpetuate and manage the wildlife of Idaho and “provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping” (Idaho Code, Section 36-103).

Since in 2004, the Department sold more than 340,000 resident hunting and fishing licenses, Idaho Fish and Game is firmly associated with outdoor recreation management in Idaho.

The Department’s vision statement, which is incorporated into its strategic plan states that “Idaho Department of Fish and Game shall work with the citizens of Idaho in providing abundant, diverse fish and wildlife and ensuring a rich outdoor heritage for all generations.”

The strategic plan, called “The Compass”, outlines the following objectives that directly relate to outdoor recreation:

- Maintain or improve game populations to meet the demand for hunting, fishing, and trapping
- Ensure the long-term survival of native fish, wildlife, and plants
- Increase the capacity of habitat to support fish and wildlife
- Maintain a diversity of fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities
- Sustain fish and wildlife recreation on public lands
- Increase opportunities for wildlife viewing and appreciation
- Maintain broad public support for fish and wildlife recreation and management
- Increase public knowledge and understanding of Idaho’s fish and wildlife
- Improve funding to meet legal mandates and public expectations

The Compass also describes what the Department hopes to achieve in its management of fish and wildlife. Many of the desired outcomes directly relate to outdoor recreation:

- Hunters, anglers, and trappers are highly satisfied with the number and variety of fish and game available for harvest.
- Idaho citizens are highly satisfied with the diversity and health of the state’s native fish, wildlife, and plants.
- Hunters, anglers, trappers, and wildlife viewers are highly satisfied with fish and wildlife recreation opportunities.
- Landowners allow access for fish and wildlife recreation.
- Recreational opportunities are abundant and well distributed around the state, while conflicts between recreationists are few and far between.
- Hunters, anglers, trappers, and wildlife viewers enjoy broad public support for their recreational activities.
- There is broad recognition and support in Idaho for the economic

and social benefits of fish and wildlife recreation and management.

- Idaho citizens are well-informed and knowledgeable about fish and wildlife resources and the Department's management role.
- Fish and wildlife management is based on sound science and is responsive to the needs and expectations of Idaho citizens.
- Information related to Idaho's fish, wildlife, plants, and ecosystems is easily accessible in a variety of formats.
- Funding is sufficient to manage fish and wildlife and serve the public.

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

P.O. Box 25

Boise, ID 83707

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Idaho Conservation Data Center

The Idaho Conservation Data Center (IDCDC) collects, analyzes, maintains, and disseminates scientific information necessary for the management and conservation of Idaho's biological diversity. The IDCDC's operating philosophy is to provide objective, accurate, comprehensive, and timely information on the distribution, abundance, and status of Idaho's natural resources.

The IDCDC was formerly known as the Idaho Natural Heritage Program which was established as a cooperative effort by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and The Nature Conservancy in 1984. The IDCDC has been a program within the Idaho Department of Fish and Game since 1992, and an affiliate member of the NatureServe network with more than 75 comparable programs using standardized methodology to manage biological data in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Funding for the CDC is provided by a variety of private, state, and federal conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, Bureau of Land Management, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U. S. Bureau of Reclamations.

The IDCDC Database

The IDCDC is the central repository for biodiversity information in the State of Idaho. Data are maintained in GIS-based systems containing site-specific information on rare plants, invertebrates, vertebrates, ecological communities, conservation sites, and wetland and terrestrial habitats. These data are seamlessly shared among NatureServe member programs, and disseminated directly via annual exchanges with partners or by request for a specific project, or indirectly on the IDCDC website.

Wetlands

Since 1994, IDCDC has received wetland program development grants from the EPA to conduct field inventories and enhance existing state wetlands information. These data are compiled at two spatial scales: (1) coarse, based on the National Wetlands Inventory maps (available for portions of the state in digital format), and (2) fine, based on the designation of biologically significant wetlands or wetland conservation sites (including information on plant associations and special status plant and animal species). These grants have been responsible for increasing recognition of the diversity of wetland systems and discovery of new and important species (including plants listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act).

Recently, the Boise National Forest and Payette National Forest have supported riparian classification projects. This information will be used to identify and characterize riparian wetlands in these Forests. Last, the

IDCDC has identified and mapped the distribution of 12 different wetland types (i.e., ecological systems) throughout the state. This information is used as the basis for characterizing wetland habitats associated with invertebrates and vertebrates in greatest need of conservation (Idaho Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS)). Results from these projects are available via the IDCDC website or by request from the IDCDC. Moreover, all of this information is currently being used to update a 1994 statewide assessment of statewide wetland resources. This update will be used as a basis for prioritizing wetlands conservation and management activities.

Idaho Conservation Data Center
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
PO Box 25
Boise ID 83707-0025
208-334-3180
<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/cdc/>



Idaho Department of Water Resources

Water and waterways are important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism activities that occur in the state. Several activities occurring within the Planning and Technical Services Division in support of Idaho Water Resource Board (Board) programs consider the recreation and tourism resources of the State. These programs include the development of a state comprehensive water plan, which includes natural and recreational river designations, and administering the Minimum Streamflow Program. These maintain important resource values that benefit or enhance recreation. IDWR provides technical assistance in administering these programs.

The Idaho Legislature passed the Comprehensive State Water Plan Act (H.B. 780) in 1988. The Act directs the Board to formulate, adopt and implement a comprehensive state water plan for conservation, development, management and optimum use of all unappropriated water resources and waterways in the state for the public interest. The plan evaluates water resource uses in the basin and may recommend additional water policy and resource management options.

Each comprehensive state water plan must contain a description of the water resources and related economic, cultural and natural resources; a description of existing and planned uses of these resources; and the goals, objectives and recommendations for improving, developing and conserving the water resources. Concerning recreation and tourism, the state water plan inventories, describes and considers recreational opportunities, scenic values, fish and wildlife and natural and cultural features. The state water plan also describes navigation, power development, energy conservation, irrigation, flood control, water supply, timber, mining, livestock watering, domestic, commercial, municipal and industrial water uses and other aspects of environmental quality and economic development (Idaho Code 42-1734A(3)).

A comprehensive state water plan may designate waterways possessing outstanding recreation, scenic, fish and wildlife and/or geologic values as state protected rivers. They are protected under a “Natural” or “Recreational” river designation. A state designated Natural River is free of substantial human made structures and the riparian area is largely undeveloped (Idaho Code, 42-1734(7)). A Recreational river may contain some human made development within the river channel or riparian area (Idaho Code, 42-1734(9)). Recreational designation allows for more flexibility in selecting what activities will be allowed within the river channel. These designations are made only if the Board determines the value of preserving the water is in the public interest and outweighs developing the river for other beneficial uses. State protection may prohibit the following activities from occurring within an area bounded by the high water mark:

- Construction or expansion of dams or impoundments
- Construction of hydropower projects

- Construction of water diversion works
- Dredge or placer mining
- Alterations of the stream bed
- Mineral or sand and gravel extraction

Under a “Natural” river designation, all six of these activities are prohibited. Under a “Recreational” river designation, the Board may determine which activities are prohibited and the conditions under which those activities not prohibited may go forward. State designation is reviewed every five years, or can be amended by the Board if it determines revisions are in the public interest. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must consider these plans during hydro project licensing.

Another program concerning recreation and tourism roles and responsibilities is the Minimum Streamflow Program. A minimum streamflow, or instream flow, is a water right where water is not diverted, but remains in a given reach of a stream channel or lake to protect recreation, aesthetic beauty, fish and wildlife habitat, aquatic life, water quality, navigation and/or transportation. The instream flow right is held by the Board and is the minimum flow or lake level (not the ideal or most desirable) necessary to protect defined values. Minimum streamflows are filed on unappropriated waters. The Lemhi River is a special case in that a natural flow rental pool was established by the legislature, which allows willing water right holders to rent their water to provide for a minimum, which is needed to maintain passage for migrating salmon. Existing water rights with earlier priority dates must be satisfied before the water is allowed to remain in the stream channel. In order for a minimum streamflow to be granted it must also be in the public interest and be capable of being maintained.

To administer these programs the Board relies on the technical assistance of the planning staff at the IDWR. Staff support includes the following:

- Maintenance of a natural resource database related to water planning activities.
- Analysis of natural resource data using a geographic information system (GIS), statistical and descriptive methods.
- Preparation of technical documents in support of planning activities.
- Formulation of water policies for incorporation into the statewide water policy plan.
- Oversight of interagency cooperation in natural resource planning.
- Management of the Board’s Minimum Streamflow Program.
- Oversight of FERC hydropower licensing activities.

IDWR coordinates these activities with the appropriate federal, state and local agencies to obtain available information about recreation activities and opportunities and management objectives.

Idaho Department of Water Resources
The Idaho Water Center
322. E. Front Street
Boise, Idaho 83720-0098
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Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

Mission

To improve the quality of life in Idaho through outdoor recreation and resource stewardship.

Roles and Responsibilities Related to Outdoor Recreation and Tourism

House Bill 138 of the 1965 Legislature stated: "It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Parks and Recreation shall formulate and put into execution a long-range, comprehensive plan and program for the acquisition, planning, protection, operation, maintenance, development and wise use of areas of scenic beauty, recreational utility, historic, archaeological or scientific interests, to the end that the health, happiness, recreational opportunities and wholesome enjoyment of the life of the people may be further encouraged. The legislature finds that the state of Idaho and its subdivisions should enjoy the benefits of federal assistance programs for the planning and development of the outdoor recreational resources of the state, including the acquisition of lands and waters and interests therein."

In addition, to these enabling responsibilities, the IDPR has been provided legislative authority for the following:

- Adopt, amend or rescind rules necessary for the administration and the use and protection of park and recreation areas subject to its jurisdiction.
- Make expenditures for the acquisition, care, control, supervision, improvement, development, extension and maintenance of all lands under the control of the department.
- Enter into partnerships with other state entities, whether to seek or provide assistance in the improvement or development of lands or properties controlled by the board or any other department or agency of the state.
- Appoint local and regional park and recreation advisory groups, including the recreational vehicle advisory committee, waterways improvement fund grant advisory committee, and off-highway vehicle advisory committee.
- Cooperate with and secure agreements with both the United States and its agencies, and local governments of the state for the purposes of acquiring, supervising, improving, developing, extending or maintaining lands which are designated as state parks, state monuments or state recreational areas.
- Construct, lease or otherwise establish public park or recreational privileges, facilities and conveniences and to operate said recreational services

and to make and collect reasonable charges for their use or to enter into contracts for their operation.

- Prepare and maintain a comprehensive plan for the development of the outdoor recreational resources of the state.
- Develop, operate and maintain outdoor recreational areas and facilities of the state and to acquire lands, waters, and interests in lands and waters for such areas and facilities.
- Establish, develop, supervise and maintain through cooperative agreement, lease, purchase or other arrangement the Idaho recreation trail system.
- Administer the state waterways improvement fund for the protection and promotion of safety, waterways improvement, creation and improvement of parking areas for boating purposes, making and improving boat ramps and moorings, marking of waterways, search and rescue, and all things incident to such purposes including the purchase or real and personal property.
- Administer the state off-highway motor vehicle account for the acquisition, purchase, improvement, repair, maintenance, furnishing and equipping of off-road motor vehicle facilities and sites or areas used by off-road vehicles on public or private land, and to assist the enforcement of laws and regulations governing the use of off-road vehicles.
- Administer the federal recreational trails program for environmental and safety education programs, maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails, development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails, purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, and construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions for new trails on federal lands).
- Administer the recreational vehicle account for the acquisition, lease, development, improvement, and maintenance of facilities designed to promote the health, safety, and enjoyment of recreational vehicle users.
- To promulgate rules to improve boating safety on Idaho's waters, including adopting standards for safe operation and equipment of vessels, and to foster the greater development, use and enjoyment of the waters of the state.
- Conduct investigations, including public hearings, to establish and amend a list of threatened or endangered wild flowers and shrubs.

Customer Profile

Parks

Idaho's 30 state parks log between 2.5 and 3 million visitor days each year. Over 2 million annual visits come from people who use the parks for recreation during the day. About 73 percent of those visitors are Idahoans. Of our 300,000+ campers, 53 percent are residents.

Boating

There are over more than 81,000 registered motorboats and sailboats, and approximately 100,000 non-motorized vessels such as raft, canoes, kayaks and dories.



Recreational Vehicles

In calendar year 2004, 89,118 motor homes, travel trailers, truck campers, tent trailers, and van conversions were licensed statewide. This number has increased from 73,186 just ten years earlier.

Snowmobiles

Snowmobile registration vary from about 48,000 to about 53,000 annually, depending on the weather. The registration fees from these snowmobiles support the grooming and maintenance of more than 5,600 miles of snowmobile trails.

Off-Highway Motorized Vehicles

Idaho has more than 95,000 registered off-highway motorcycles and ATVs. The number of registered off-highway motorized vehicles is growing rapidly. Much of this increase can be attributed to the growth of all-terrain vehicle registrations, which accounted for more than 66,000 registrations.

Non-Motorized Trail Users

Non-motorized trail users include hikers, runners, walkers, bicyclists, equestrians, cross-country skiers, and snowshoers. Non-motorized trail users desire a wide variety of trail opportunities from urban greenbelts to remote backcountry trails. Idaho's population of non-motorized trail users continues to grow as Idaho's population continues to increase.

Resources

Outdoor Recreation Resource	Number
Parks	30
Campsites	1,838

Total Acres Managed (Deeded, Leased, MOU)	43,183
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Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation
5657 Warm Springs Ave,
Boise, ID 83716
208-334-4199

Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative

The Idaho Recreation and Tourism Initiative (IRTI) is the umbrella group for coordinating outdoor recreation policies, programs and projects in the state. The Initiative started in 1988. Principal partners include the Idaho Departments of Parks and Recreation, Commerce and Labor, Fish and Game and Transportation; the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the National Park Service; and such private sector entities as the Idaho Campground Owners Association and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Association. The Initiative works to:

- Improve recreation and tourism information for the public.
- Improve recreation and tourism opportunities for the public.
- Provide high-quality recreational & tourism services to the public.
- Provide a forum for coordinating agency policies.

By working together, all entities save money and serve the public more effectively. The Initiative is responsible for such things as:

- Initiating the annual Idaho Governor's Conference on Recreation and Tourism.
- Initiating action that led to creation of a State Scenic Byway System.
- Updating and annually publishing the Idaho Campground Directory.
- Completing the Idaho Wildlife Viewing Guide and the Scenic Byway Brochure.
- Maintaining a 1-800 phone system and an Internet web page.

The Initiative facilitates accomplishing SCORTP planning goals and strategies and the periodic update of SCORTP.

IRTI Coordinator Jack Lavin
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Idaho Association of Counties

Mission

The Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) mission is to provide education and to coordinate efforts of county elected officials to facilitate effective county government.

History

IAC, formed in 1976, is a non-profit, non-partisan service organization dedicated to the improvement of county government. It was designed and incorporated by county elected officials to provide services, research, uniformity, and coordination among member counties, in order for the county elected officials to serve their constituents better. IAC is funded annually by dues paid by member counties and revenues generated by IAC services. The Constitution and By-Laws of IAC provide that the management of the organization is vested in a Board of Directors which appoints an Executive Director to assist and serve at the pleasure of the Board. The Executive Director is responsible for the management of the affairs of the IAC under general direction of the Board. The Officers of the Board are elected at the IAC Annual Conference. Other Directors are elected by the affiliate associations and IAC Districts. IAC is owned, organized and operated by Idaho's county governments.

Organizational Structure

IAC's membership consists of county elected officials from the seven county offices: Assessor, Clerk, Commissioner, Coroner, Prosecuting Attorney, Sheriff and Treasurer.

Each member has an equal voice. IAC is governed by a Board of Directors. The Officers of the Board (Executive Committee) are elected by the membership at the IAC Annual Conference, while the other Directors are elected by the affiliate associations and IAC districts. The Executive Committee consists of the President, two Vice Presidents, the Secretary/Treasurer and the Immediate Past President. Day to day operations of IAC are the responsibility of the Executive Director, to whom the staff reports.

IAC is an umbrella organization and provides staff support for seven affiliate county officials' associations: Idaho Association of County Assessors, Idaho Association of County Records and Clerks, Idaho Association of Commissioners and Clerks, Idaho State Association of County Coroners, Idaho Prosecuting Attorneys' Association, Idaho Sheriffs' Association and Idaho Association of County Treasurers.

Idaho Association of Counties
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Association of Idaho Cities

The Association of Idaho Cities was founded in 1947 and is a nonpartisan, nonprofit corporation, owned, organized, and operated by Idaho's city governments. AIC provides services that individual cities might not be able to afford on their own.

Organizational Structure

The Association's membership is composed of Idaho's city governments with each city having an equal vote. Individuals, other associations or groups, and businesses whose interests are compatible with AIC, may be eligible for nonvoting, affiliate membership. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the membership, and represents each of Idaho's seven geographical districts. An elected nine-member Executive Committee provides close oversight of AIC activities. The Executive Committee is composed of the President, the four most recent Past Presidents, AIC's three Vice Presidents, and the Chairman of the Legislative Committee. The Executive Director manages the daily operations of the Association. The current standing committee of the Association of Idaho Cities consists of the Legislative Committee, the Environment Committee and the Human Rights Task Force.

Advocacy for Cities

The Association of Idaho Cities is the most important advocacy group for Idaho's 200 incorporated cities. AIC is involved on a daily basis in activities which promote the interests of city officials and the communities they serve.

Training & Education for City Officials

One of the primary goals of the Association of Idaho Cities is to provide training and education opportunities for city officials. The AIC plays a key role in preparing officials to address the critical issues of city governance. AIC conducts, sponsors, and participates in the following standard training events, as well as special workshops, seminars, and conferences. These events may be held on a statewide, regional, or district basis. Standard training events include the AIC Annual Conference, AIC Academy for City Officials, Spring District Workshops (Budgeting & New Laws), Northwest Community Development Institute, Idaho City Clerks, Treasurers, and Finance Officers Institute and the Idaho Energy Conference.

Technical Assistance to Cities

City officials may call AIC to obtain answers and information concerning city-related problems. On a daily basis, AIC staff receives and answers inquiries on a variety of topics of interest to cities.

Idaho Association of Cities
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The logo for the Idaho Association of Cities, featuring the word "IDAHO" in a bold, blue, serif font.



Idaho Recreation and Park Association

The Idaho Recreation and Park Association is an organization consisting of park and recreation professionals and lay persons statewide who are interested in and involved in providing and promoting parks and recreation services to residents and visitors of Idaho. These services include providing recreational activities for all ages, needs and interests; providing park and recreation facilities for all interests and abilities, as well as the professional management of these services.

Current membership in the association totals over 240 members, and is made up of municipal, county, district, state, federal, private professionals, and private business professionals associated with parks, recreation and tourism services and products, plus board members, students and volunteers.

The mission of the IRPA is to serve our members and support their effort to enhance Idaho's quality of life by promoting the preservation, growth, and development of parks and recreation services to benefit the health and well being of our people, our communities, our economy, and our environment.

This mission is further emphasized in the association by-laws as follows:

- To organize all levels of park and recreation personnel and the interested lay person, for the purpose of promoting, broadening and improving parks and recreation services, personnel and profession.
- To assist in the promotion of standards of administration, supervision, leadership, safety, compensation, program facilities and professional ethics.
- To encourage and promote adequate programs of pre-service and in-service training, for professional and non-professional recreation and park personnel.
- To stimulate closer cooperation and coordination between the various agencies, public, private, commercial, education and industrial, engaged in park, recreational and related services and hold membership herein, if deemed necessary.
- To publish a newsletter and other bulletins or communications for dissemination of information concerning activities and interests of the association.
- To act as an agency for representing and protecting the interests of recreation and park personnel and field staff.
- To encourage study and research on matters of professional interest.
- To study existing parks and recreation legislation. To promote and sponsor new legislation and additions and betterment to existing legislation in the field of public, private, commercial, education and industrial recreation services.
- To be aware of sociological and technological changes and be prepared to meet them as they arrive.

To further strengthen the association and its benefit to the citizens of Idaho they continue to emphasize and promote the creation partnerships. These partnerships include tourism providers, universities, utilities, health organizations, and various commercial providers.

Doug Strong
President
Meridian Parks and Recreation
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The Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands

A statewide public benefit privately-funded organization can provide for safekeeping of land assets as part of land conservation. These property assets, as they are acquired, may be held and then either conveyed to a public agency or stay in protective status and management permanently with the Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands. Founded in 1972 the Foundation has been the recipient of more than \$ 10,000,000.00 in assets, primarily by donation. The reason it is called a "Foundation" is that it can make "grants" of land to public agencies.

Generally, people and corporations donate because they want to give something back to their community, state, or region and the Foundation can be the gift acceptance vehicle for that process. A perpetual conservation easement grants that the property will never be subdivided and developed. As a grantee of conservation easements the Foundation has certain obligations for baseline documentation and monitoring to ensure compliance.

A sampling of land donations follows:

In 1973 the Hemingway family made the first gift to the Foundation, a 450-acre fishing preserve along the Little Wood River named after Taylor "Bear Track" Williams who was Ernest Hemingway's favorite guide. It is now managed by Idaho Fish & Game. Under the impetus of the Harriman gift in the Island Park area of eastern Idaho involving 15,000 acres and a share of voting capital stock the Foundation was formed and, at an agreed-upon time, orchestrated delivery of the stock to the State as part of the acquisition of what is now Harriman State Park of Idaho. The Foundation also received approximately 1,000 acres known as Harriman East through which two and one-half miles of the world famous Henry's Fork fishery flows. In partnership with the Henry's Fork Foundation, a smooth wire, solar-powered, high tensile fence was placed along both sides of the river to protect the fisher. This cooperative effort earned the foundation the Take Pride in America 1987 National Award as a semi-finalist in demonstrating that man, cattle and the environment could work together.

Contiguous to Sun Valley and Ketchum, the Reinheimer Ranch's 110 acres is a gateway to the world famous ski and summer resort area. In the midst of highly valued real estate development the Reinheimer Ranch functions as a reminder of the area as it looked in the 1880s. The Big Wood River and Bald Mountain on one side, Dollar Mountain on the other, the ranch came to the Foundation by bequest of Eleanor Reinheimer. It was her stipulation that no structures ever be built. In 1988, the Foundation purchased the 100-foot railroad right-of-way adjoining the Reinheimer Ranch allowing for another segment of the Wood River Trail system to be completed.

The Barber Pool Conservation Area, six miles east of the city of Boise consists of 400 acres bisected by the Boise River. Chosen as one of the top twelve Unique Wildlife Ecosystems in Idaho, the Barber Pool provides excellent habitat for wildlife and plant species as well as a high concentration of wintering bald eagles. A management agreement with the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation emphasizes its continued use as an anchor habitat for the mid-reach of the Boise River. Alongside the Barber Pool is the Penitentiary Canal Bike Path funded in 1988 by the Land & Water Conservation Fund.

The Foundation will play a role in the city of Lewiston's acquisition process of a five-parcel package when property held, some since 1981, transfers to be used as a Land & Water Conservation Fund match.

Managed by a Board of Directors, all private citizens, the Foundation protects and enhances Idaho land. In the reality of today's world there are not enough tax dollars to go around. A land conservation organization such as the Idaho Foundation for Parks & Lands can be the conduit to channel monies for the acquisition and management of lands and not forfeit lifetime opportunities. The Foundation will continue to operate in the private/public niche that partners so well with getting things done effectively and at a lower cost. Idaho's future will depend on having resources through these public/private partnerships to support wildlife habitat, develop trails and sustain native plant and animal species.

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